

REMARKS

A. The Status of the Claims and the Amendments

Claims 1 and 24 have been amended. Claims 4-23 and 27 have been withdrawn from consideration as non-elected. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 24-26, and 28 are currently under consideration. The claims amendments clarify the language of the claims and harmonize the language of the claims with the specification. The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's suggestion with respect to amending claims 1 and 24. In particular, the limitation "undivided" has been deleted as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims amendments do not introduce any new matter.

B. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph (Written Description)

Claims 1-3, 24-26, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed. In particular, the Examiner has asserted that the limitation "undivided" in claims 1 and 24 has no support in the specification.

Claims 1 and 24 have been amended and the limitation "undivided" has been deleted. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1-3, 24-26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking adequate written description, does not apply. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In the Application of:
Glenn A. Sasaki
Application No.: 09/930,590
Filed: August 15, 2001
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PATENT
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CONCLUSION

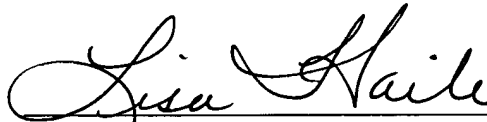
In view of items 2 and 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, it is submitted that the above amendments clearly place all the pending claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action on all the claims are respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

No fee is believed due in connection with this response. In the event that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amounts required by this filing, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

3/28/05



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